

Message Text

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73/13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /145 W

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P R 180800Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9787

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0247

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTION ADDED "CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY")

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA ZA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO VISIT CHCNA

REF: LUSAKA 0243

1. PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT MARK CHONA SUMMONED AMBASSADOR TO STATE HOUSE SUNDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 17 TO SAY PRESIDENT KAUNDA WANTED TO INFORM USG IN ADVANCE AND ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT HE WILL BE VISITING PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA THIS MONTH. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE FEBRUARY 18; PRESIDENTIAL PARTY DEPARTING LUSAKA FEBRUARY 20 AND RETURNING EARLY MARCH.

2. CHONA EXPLAINED THAT KAUNDA HAD LAST VISITED CHINA IN 1967 AT HEIGHT OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION. DURING SIX, INTERVENING YEARS
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ZAMBIA SOUGHT AND CHINA AGREED TO BUILD TANZAM RAILROAD.

CONSTRUCTION RECENTLY MOVED INTO ZAMBIA AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN NEAR FUTURE. PRESIDENT WANTED TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE DIRECTLY TO CHINESE BUT MOST IMPORTANT WANTED TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THOSE COUNTRIES ZAMBIA COUNTS AS FRIENDS AND TO REVIEW MAIN ELEMENTS IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. CHONA SAID SUCH UPDATED KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANT FOR DEALING WITH PROPAGANDISTIC ALLEGATIONS OF SAG AGAINST PRC DESIGNS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EMPHASIZED THAT KAUNDA WOULD CONCENTRATE DURING VISIT ON LEARNING EXTENT TO WHICH PRC COULD BE COUNTED ON AS FORCE FOR PEACE "OR SOMETHING ELSE" IN PRESENT WORLD SITUATION.

3. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED RECENT REPORTS OF CERTAIN SHIFTS IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN PRC WITH INCREASING CRITICISM SAID TO BE COMING FROM LIBERAL ELEMENTS AROUND SHANGHAI. WOULD THIS BE SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO GRZ BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE QUESTIONS CHINESE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION COULD POSE FOR CHARACTER OF PRC FOREIGN POLICY. CHONA REPLIED "VERY MUCH SO".

4. CHONA SAID TRIP WOULD INCLUDE VISITS TO PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. DENIED RUMORS PRESIDENT INTENDED TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA. SAID COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION STILL NOT COMPLETE BECAUSE MANY CABINET MINISTERS ENGAGED WHILE PARLIAMENT IN SESSION. SAID SOME MEMBERS OF PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT, AS WOULD CHONA.

5. AMBASSADOR THANKED CHONA FOR COURTESY OF ADVANCE NOTICE. ASKED IF ON PARTY'S RETURN CHONA WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE DE-BRIEFING ON ZAMBIAN IMPRESSIONS. CHONA READILY AGREED. WILKOWSKI

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